

DULUTH'S

blueprint

*A challenge to bring  
economic prosperity and hope  
to every citizen.*

**to end poverty**



# Community Action Duluth

- Community Action was formed in Duluth in 1965 as a public agency operated through the City of Duluth, the emphasis was on providing direct services to low-income people
- In 1982, Community Action established itself as the Duluth Community Action Program (DCAP), a nonprofit organization
- DCAP was reborn as Community Action Duluth in 1999 and decided to address poverty in a different way by focusing on helping individuals and families move out of poverty. This innovative approach led to programs that address building economic security, family development and changing public policy.

# Community Action Duluth

## ➤ Mission

Our mission is to use innovative strategies that mobilize low-income people and the broader community to build assets that prevent poverty, create equality and strengthen our social fabric.

# Community Action Duluth

## OUR VISION:

- We envision a community where individuals and families can find the means to prosper with access to quality education, affordable housing and healthcare, gainful employment and meaningful involvement in civic life.
- We believe that through community coordinated partnerships, low-income people can find the support, resources and relationships that will help them overcome the economic, racial or cultural barriers that have prevented them from establishing and maintaining self-sufficient and connected lives in our community.

# Why Blueprint...

- Blueprint aligns with the mission and vision of our organization
- National trends are leading to this type of community-based strategic planning
- Success stories from other communities inspired us
- We truly believe that poverty can be eliminated

# How Big is Poverty?

- If all the poor people living in the U.S. were to populate a single state, it would have to be our largest – CALIFORNIA - actually larger – over 35 million people. [\[1\]](#)

# Poverty in the U.S.

- On average, 1 out of 3 Americans (34.2%) are officially classified as living in poverty at least 2 months out of the year
- 12.1 % of Americans below Federal Poverty Guidelines (2000 U.S. Census)

# How much is too much?

- 1 out of 6 children in the U.S. live in poverty.<sup>[1]</sup>
- 1 out of 10 families in the U.S. live in poverty.<sup>[2]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> Catholic Campaign for Human Development

<sup>[2]</sup> Catholic Campaign for Human Development

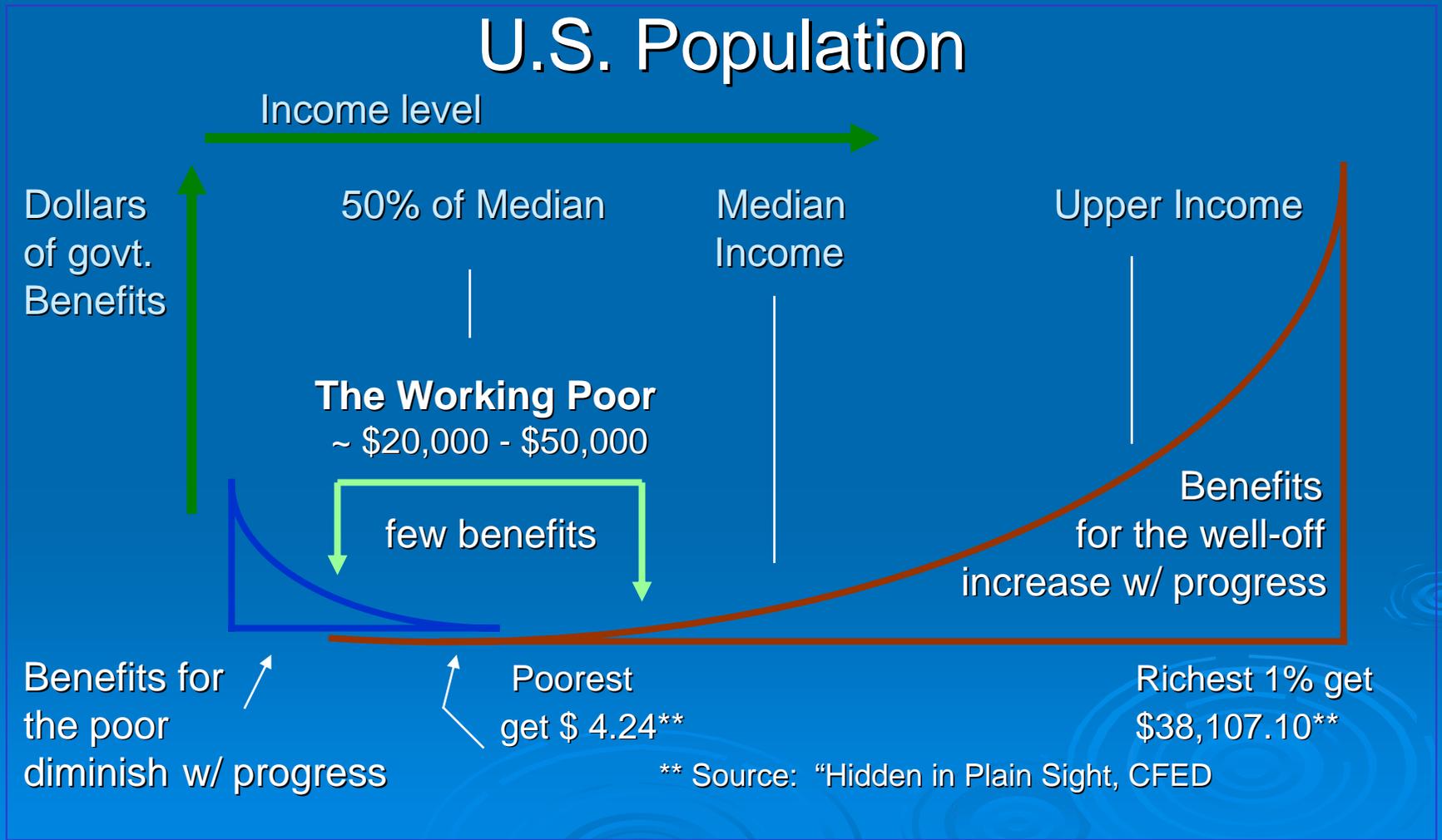
# 2007 HHS Poverty Guidelines

For all states (except Alaska and Hawaii) and for the District of Columbia

<b>Size of family unit</b>	<b>100 Percent of Poverty</b>
1	\$9,800
2	\$13,200
3	\$16,600
4	\$20,000
5	\$23,400
6	\$26,800
7	\$30,200
8	\$33,600

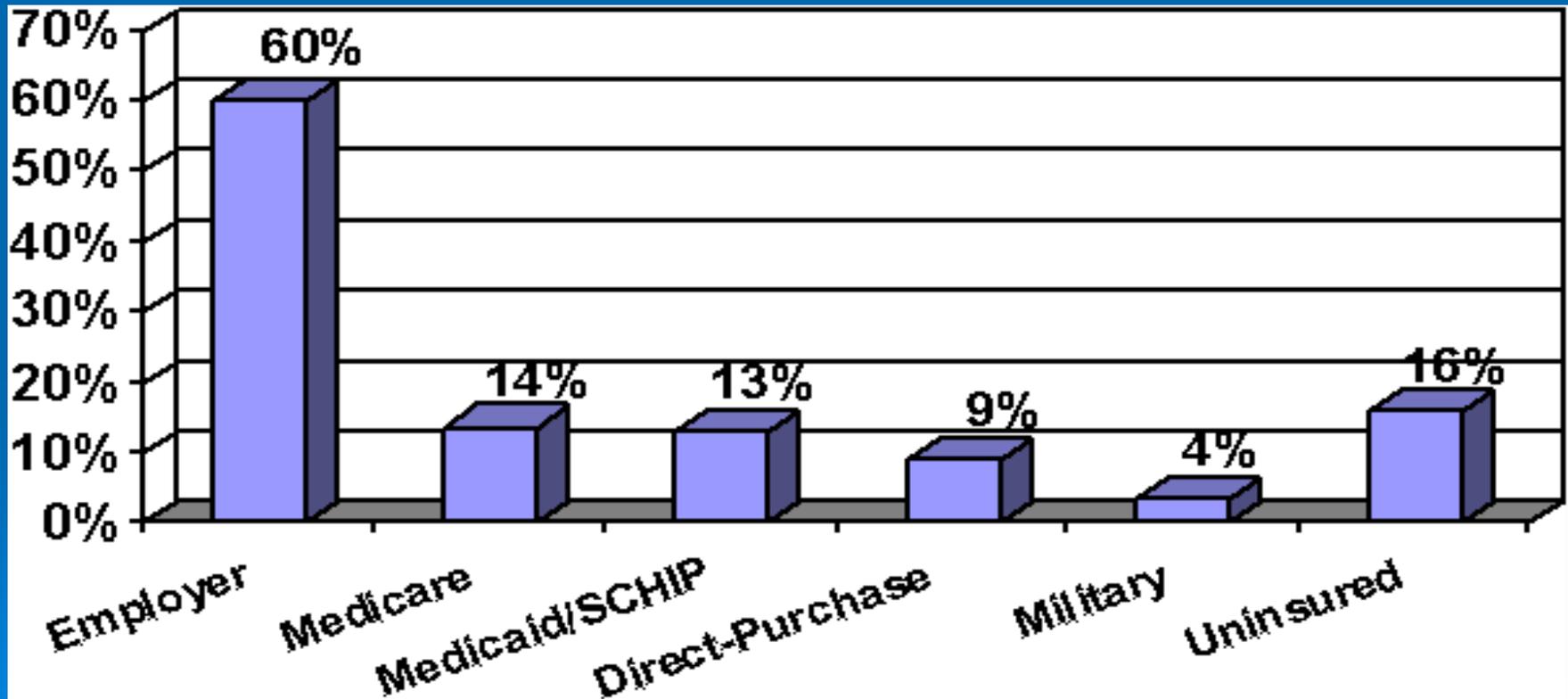
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2007

# Structure of Govt. Benefits



# In the U.S., how many people currently have healthcare through their employer?

Sources of Insurance Coverage in 2004(2)



According to the 2000 Census, Duluth has 12,627 individuals living below the poverty level.

- This is 15.5% of the Duluth's overall population. (US Census Bureau)
- This is nearly twice the average rate (8.1%) for the rest of the Minnesota. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 Estimate)
- The federal poverty rate is 12.6% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 Estimate)

# Working Poor in Duluth

You are considered “working poor” if you earn less than the following annual incomes based on household size.

Family Size	Income
1	\$19,140
2	\$22,660
3	\$32,180
4	\$38,700
5	\$45,220
6	\$51,740
7	\$58,260
8	\$64,780

In Duluth: 27,352 people are living in poverty or are considered “working poor.” That’s 31.5 percent of the city’s population!

State Demographer’s Office

# How much is childcare for 1 child?

Age 2 & younger— \$110 per week  
\$5,700 per year.

Ages 3 to 5— \$95 per week  
\$4,900 per year.

Ages 6 to 9— \$68 per week  
\$3,600 per year.

Ages 10 to 12— \$64 per week  
\$3,300 per year.

\*For perspective, state college tuition is about \$3,400 per year,  
and state university tuition is about \$4,500 per year.

(Cost of Child Care- Fundamental Facts from the 2004 Minnesota Child  
care survey, Minnesota Department of Human Services)

# For those who pay for child care, child care expenses take a bigger share of gross income for families with low incomes.

<u>By annual household income</u>	<u>Percentage of income spent on child care</u>
<b>Under \$20,000</b>	<b>28 percent</b>
<b>\$20,000 to under \$45,000</b>	<b>15 percent</b>
<b>\$45,000 to under \$75,000</b>	<b>8 percent</b>
<b>\$75,000 or more</b>	<b>7 percent</b>

**10 percent of gross income going for child care expenses is considered affordable!**

(from Cost of Child Care- Fundamental Facts from the 2004 Minnesota Child care survey, Minnesota Department of Human Services)

What do you think is the average rent for a 3 bedroom apartment in Duluth?

**The average was \$800 in Fall of 2005.**

(City of Duluth 2005 Rental and Vacancy Rate Survey)

# How much is too much?

- St. Louis County has 55% of its rental households paying over 30% of their income on rent.
- This is the highest in the state.

(Minnesota Housing Partnership County Fact Sheet, December 2006)

What percentage of children in  
Duluth qualify for free or reduced  
lunch?

38% of Duluth's  
children qualify

From AYP Results- Not Making AYP- All Districts (spreadsheet), MN  
Department of Education 2006

# How do we compare?

- **Duluth is at 77.6% of Minnesota's Median Household Income <sup>(1)</sup>**
  - Duluth - \$39,379
  - Minnesota - \$50,750
  
- **Duluth is at 85.8% of Minnesota's per capita income <sup>(2)</sup>**
  - Duluth - \$31,032
  - Minnesota - \$36,184

<sup>(1)</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Median Household Income Updates, 2003.

<sup>(2)</sup> Fed Stats, Per Capita Income Updates, 2004.

# How much is the average starting wage for someone moving to NE Minnesota?

Industrial Division	Job Vacancies	Vacancy Rate (%)	Median Wage(\$)
Accommodation	1,307	9%	\$6.50
Healthcare	786	2.8%	\$10.73
Retail Trade	383	2.1%	\$12.00
Construction	212	3.1%	\$11.00
Administrative and Support	128	3.9%	\$7.50

“Planning Region” Statistics Number of Job Vacancies and wages for the five Occupational Groups with the most job vacancies (NE Minnesota From The Department of Employment and Economic Development; Second Quarter 2006)

# Minnesotans are Realistic – and Optimistic – About Prospects for Their Communities

- *How much income would you say a family of four needs to earn in a year in order to make ends meet in your community?*

	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>
➤ <b>At least \$10,000</b>	<b>1 %</b>	<b>2%</b>
➤ <b>At least \$20,000</b>	<b>8 %</b>	<b>8%</b>
➤ <b>At least \$30,000</b>	<b>23 %</b>	<b>29%</b>
➤ <b>At least \$40,000</b>	<b>25 %</b>	<b>27%</b>
➤ <b>More than \$40,000</b>	<b>39 %</b>	<b>30%</b>

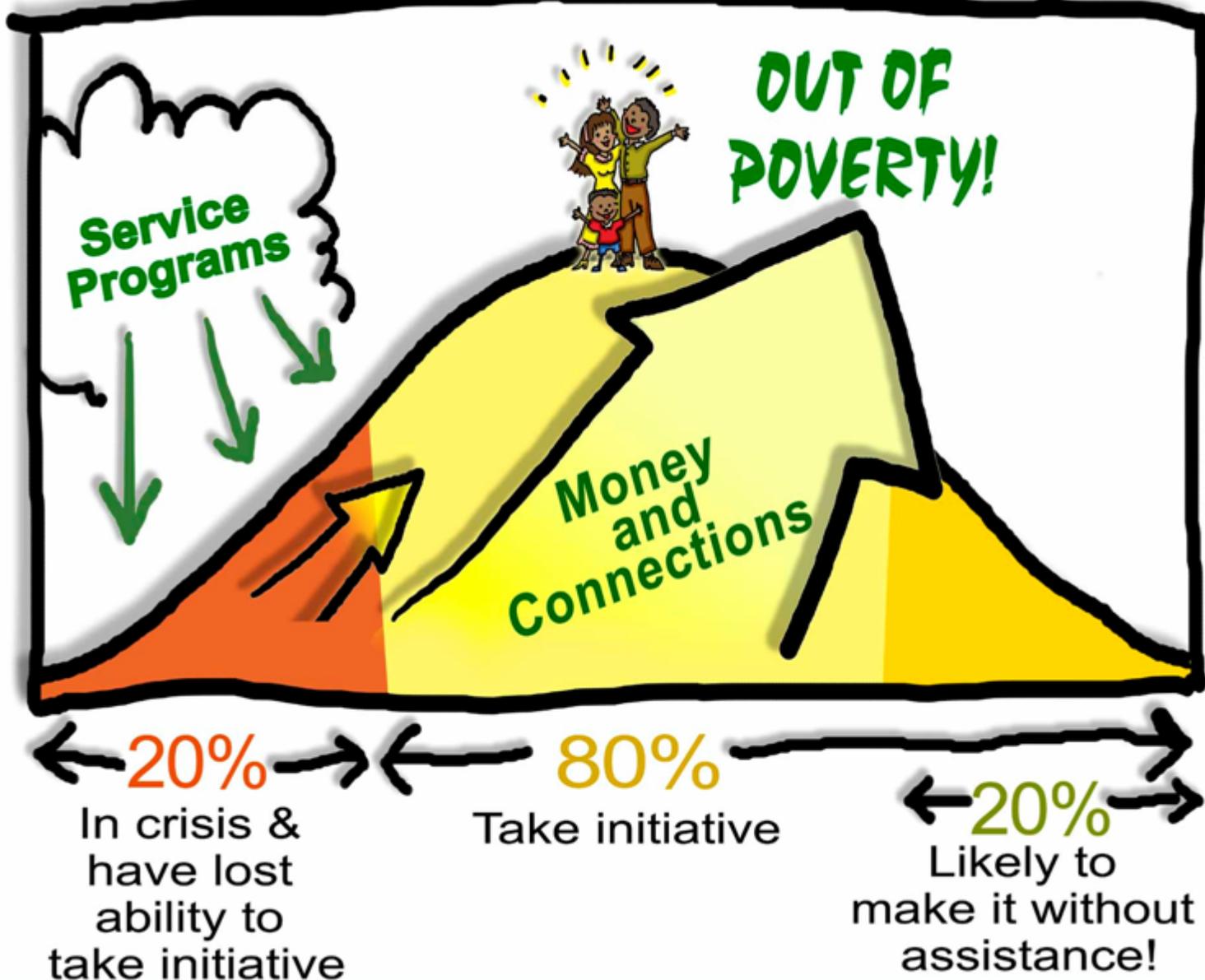
- The survey of 2,400 Americans included oversamples in Northwest Area Foundation's eight-state region, including Minnesota. According to the survey, more than half of respondents state and in the nation) believe a family of four needs at least \$40,000 per year to make meet – far exceeding the federal government's poverty threshold of \$19,806 annually.

**\$19,350: the federal definition of poverty for a family of four.**

# Perceptions on Community

	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>
<i>There are many skilled, capable people in my community</i>	87%	91%
<i>Most people in my community are willing to help neighbors</i>	86%	84%
<i>There are people in my community willing to help those struggling</i>	88%	83%
<i>I would like to do more to help people struggling in my community</i>	90%	78%

How likely would you be to:	U.S.	Minnesota
Join with others in your community to discuss ways to help those struggling to make ends meet:	76 %	71 %
Take part in a church project to help people struggling to make ends meet:	78 %	76 %
Pay \$50 more a year in taxes if it would go to programs in your own community that help people struggling to make ends meet:	68 %	47 %
Talk to elected officials in your community about people's struggle to make ends meet:	70 %	62 %



**Duluth's  
Blueprint  
to End  
Poverty**

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graph TD; A[Duluth's Blueprint to End Poverty] --- B[Low-Income Fellows Leadership Program]; A --- C[Guiding Coalition]; A --- D[Community Outreach Events]; A --- E[Community-wide Strategy Sessions];
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**Low-Income  
Fellows  
Leadership  
Program**

**Guiding Coalition**

**Community  
Outreach Events**

**Community-wide  
Strategy  
Sessions**

# Element of Blueprint

- **Guiding Coalition:**  
The coalition will act the “steering” committee for the overall process; planning, participating, and processing
- **Strategy Sessions:**  
Sessions will engage the larger community in developing solutions to end poverty in Duluth
- **Community-wide Events:**  
Events will act as an educational outreach to the broader community around the topic of poverty
- **Fellows Program:**  
Program will help low-income community members participate in the planning process and also learn more about community organizing and public policy

# Timeline / Overview

- **January:** Form Guiding Coalition & Recruit Fellows
- **February:** Gathering of Guiding Coalition, Fellows training, Press Conference
- **March:** Guiding Coalition meeting, Fellows training, strategy session #1, Blueprint Banquet, Regional Symposium on Poverty
- **April:** Fellows training, strategy session #2, strategy session #3
- **May:** Strategy session #4

# The Role of the Guiding Coalition

- Why have a guiding coalition?
  - Overall guidance
  - Expertise
  - Involvement of a strong cross-section of community leaders
- Commitment – 6 months
  - Coalition meetings
  - Community Outreach Events
  - Strategy sessions
  - Plan Development meetings

# Regional Initiatives

## ➤ Legislative Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota by 2020

Creation of an 18 member bi-partisan, bi-cameral commission to develop strategies to end poverty by 2020 in the state.

## ➤ Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington County -Blueprint

Created a one year community engagement process resulting in 8 strategies and now entering into an implementation phase.

# National Initiatives

## ➤ Kalamazoo Promise

- Anonymous donors, who had been meeting in private to discuss how to stimulate the city's economy announced in late 2005 that they would offer free college tuition to graduates of the public schools in Kalamazoo, MI.

## ➤ “Step Up” Savannah’s Poverty Reduction Initiative

- Savannah, GA has developed a framework of goals and action steps for poverty reduction that are an outgrowth of community planning sessions

## ➤ One America

- John Edwards announced a proposal to eliminate U.S. poverty within 30 years. He also set an interim target of lifting 12 million American out of poverty.

“The best way to predict  
the future is to create it.”

-Peter F. Drucker

The background features several sets of concentric circles in a lighter shade of blue, resembling ripples in water. These circles are scattered across the lower half of the slide, with one set being particularly prominent in the bottom right corner.